

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

An image forming apparatus includes an image bearing member; a plurality of developing devices for developing electrostatic images formed on the image bearing member with 5 developers, the developing devices including respective developer carrying members for carrying respective developers; moving devices for moving a selected one of the developing devices to an operative position, wherein each of the developer carrying members is movable selectively to be in 10 contact with or spaced from the image bearing member at the operative position. The apparatus is operable in a first image formation mode in which an image is formed using the plurality of developing devices and a second image formation mode in which an image is formed using one of the plurality of 15 developing devices. The developer carrying member which is at the operative position in the first image formation mode is capable of being spaced from the image bearing member by a first distance during non-developing-operation. The developer carrying member which is at the operative position in the 20 second image formation mode is capable of being spaced from

the image bearing member by a second distance during non-developing-operation, wherein the second distance is smaller than the first distance.

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